

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05120 301732Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2352

S E C R E T PRETORIA 5120

NODIS - CHEROKEE
FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 217680

1. WHILE REFTTEL IS AN ADMIRABLE SUMMARY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT GIVES AN IMPRESSION WHICH I BELIEVE IS NOT ACCURATE. THE ORIGINAL SUGGESTION FOR A MEETING WITH NKOMO CAME FROM SMITH. THAT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. HOWEVER, IT WAS FOLLOWED A MONTH OR SO LATER BY AN INITIATIVE BY NKOMO TO SET UP THE MEETING. NKOMO HAD ALREADY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GARBA, WHO HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE THE COVER WHEN THE BRITISH WERE INFORMED. THE ZAPU LEADER MADE THE CONTACTS WITH SMITH DIRECTLY THROUGH HIS INTERNAL MOVEMENT AND, OF COURSE, DEALT WITH KAUNDA IN ARRANGING THE LOCATION.

2. THROUGHOUT, THE BRITISH WERE INFORMED OF WHAT WAS GOING ON BUT HAD NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BEYOND AGREEING TO GO ALONG WITH IT IN MAKING PLANS FOR THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING. COOPERATION WAS REQUESTED OF THEM IN THE FORM OF TRANSPORT, BUT REFUSED.

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3. THUS, I BELIEVE IT IS INACCURATE TO DESCRIBE THE AUGUST 14 MEETING AS RESULTING FROM BRITISH EFFORT AND INVOLVING UK ASSISTANCE. IT WAS STRICTLY A SMITH-NKOMO AFFAIR. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF US-UK CLOSE ASSOCIATION IN A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT EFFORT AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHOULD THE NKOMO-SMITH MEETING, AND THE FOLLOW-UP, IF IT OCCURS, BECOME PUBLIC,

IT WILL BE WIDELY ASSUMED THAT GRAHAM AND I WERE INVOLVED.
NEITHER OF US WAS. OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO
SEEKING AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

4. THE ABOVE ACCOUNT IS BASED ON HAVING SEEN MOST OF THE
BRITISH REPORTS ON THIS MATTER. THERE ARE A FEW WHICH
WERE NOT REPEATED TO US IN SALISBURY AND I HAVE NOT
THEREFORE READ. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN SOME BRITISH
INVOLVEMENT OF WHICH I AM NOT AWARE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE
THE STORY TO BE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE AS I HAVE DESCRIBED IT.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO LUSAKA, MAPUTO,
DAR ES SALAAM, AND NAIROBI FOR DICK MOOSE.
EDMONDSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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